

Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 25, 2011

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. It is our intent to offer this e-newsletter weekly when the state legislature is in session. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

Fiscal News

From the Joint Legislative and Budget Committee -

JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights for February 2011 reports "January was the sixth consecutive month of year-over-year growth in base General Fund revenue collections." The report is provided at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-feb-11.pdf>

JLBC **Tracking Arizona's Recovery** (2/20/2011) report can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery.pdf>

It was a very active week at the Arizona State Legislature with more than 660 actions filed in five days.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Legislative action taking place on *some* of the 59 bills the Council is tracking:

One of the bills receiving considerable attention this week:

S1519: AHCCCS: Termination: 2/23 from the Senate Appropriations Committee as amended. A link to the factsheet posted on the Arizona Legislature's website is provided here:

<http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/su/mmary/s.1519approp.doc.htm>

H2156: Dental Hygienists; Supervision Requirements: 2/24 retained on House Committee of the Whole (COW) calendar.

H2157: DHS: Stroke Care Protocols: 2/24 from House Rules Committee with okay.

H2233: Mobile Dental Facilities: 2/24 retained on House Committee of the Whole (COW) calendar.

H2402: Incapacitated Persons; Guardians: 2/24 from House Rules Committee with okay.

H2530: Dental Board: House Committee of the Whole (COW) approved with amendments.

Some of the HEARINGS scheduled next week:

H2155: Dental Board; Omnibus: Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform Committee, 3/2 at 2:00 pm, Senate Rm. 1.

H2635: Court-Ordered Evaluation: Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform Committee, 3/2 at 2:00 pm, Senate Rm.

S1038: Assisted Living Caregivers; Regulation: House Health & Human Services Committee, 3/2 at 9:30 am, House Rm. 4.

S1082: DES; Fingerprinting; Finger Imaging: House Health & Human Services Committee, 3/2 at 9:30 am, House Rm. 4.

For a complete list of legislative action and hearings on all the bills being tracked, see the information provided at the FULL LIST link below.

At the end of day 47, 1,337 bills posted and six passed, six signed; 138 memorials or resolutions posted, 10 passed. Of the bills posted, several may be of interest to Arizona seniors and will be tracked by the Council and appear on the Legislative Update web page. **Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking lists does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is may be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

SHORT LIST – those bills having to do with health and safety of older adults.

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24673&listid=44407&print=true>

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24635&listid=43827&print=true>

Note: The SHORT LIST and FULL LIST website links above provide you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. ***These lists will continue to be edited and updated as the legislative session continues.*** Note: Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the administration or the legislature, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 or you may **contact the legislator from your area**. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature website** <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

If you're interested in committee assignments and schedules, you can find that information at the Arizona State Legislature website. Standing committee links are found at: <http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp>. Committee agendas and hearing schedules are posted at: <http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp>.

If you're interested in learning more about the legislative process, see the *Bill Process* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf> or *Bill to Law* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> at the Arizona State Legislature website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R.450

Restoring Assistance for Families' and Seniors' Health Expense Act of 2011

Introduced on 1/26/2011 by Representative David G. Reichert, the bill has three cosponsors: Representative Jim Gerlach (PA-6), Representative Sue Wilkins Myrick (NC-9), and Representative Patrick J. Tiberi (OH-12).

Restoring Assistance for Families' and Seniors' Health Expenses Act of 2011- Repeals provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) that: (1) increase from 7.5% to 10% the adjusted gross income threshold for claiming the tax deduction for medical expenses; (2) restrict payments from health savings accounts, medical savings accounts, and health flexible spending arrangements for medications solely to prescription drugs or insulin; (3) increase to 20% the penalty for distributions from a health savings or Archer medical savings account not used for qualified medical expenses; and (4) limit to \$2,500 the annual salary reduction contribution to a health flexible spending arrangement under a cafeteria plan.

Amends PPACA to treat a high deductible health plan as a qualified health plan under such Act.

On February 9, 2011, the bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.537

Safe Food for Seniors Act of 2011

The bill was introduced on 2/8/2011 by Representative Gerald E. Connolly (VA-11).

H.R.537

Amends titles XVIII (Medicare) and XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act to require the full-time director of food services at a Medicare skilled nursing facility (SNF) or a Medicaid nursing facility, if not a qualified dietitian, to be a Certified Dietary Manager meeting the requirements of the Certifying Board for Dietary Managers or have equivalent military or academic qualifications.

On 2/15/2011, the bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Health.

If you want more information specific to any bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

Contact Your Congressional Member. If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

Other News:

The **Administration on Aging (AoA)** and the **National Institute on Aging (NIA)** have announced a joint initiative ... "to support moving evidence-based research findings towards the development of new interventions, programs, policies, practices, and tools that can be used by community-based organizations to help elderly individuals remain healthy and independent, and living in their own homes and communities." For information about the research grant opportunity, go to:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-11-123.html>

From the **Center for Retirement Research at Boston College** - analysis of the Community Living Assistance and Support Program (CLASS) of the Affordable Care Act, "What is 'CLASS'? and Will it Work?" can be viewed at:

http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/IB_11-3.pdf

From the **Kaiser Family Foundation**

Three papers from the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured are linked at:

<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/Resources-Examine-Recession-Driven-Record-Medicaid-Enrollment-Assess-Medicaid-Spending-Growth.cfm>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Pima Council on Aging Older Adult Suicide Prevention Program

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/PCOASuicidePreventionBrochure0110.pdf>

WHAT: Tai Chi Easy; Become a Practice Leader!

WHEN: March 18, 25 and 26, 2011, 8 am to 5 pm, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Maricopa County, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix, AZ 85040

For more information: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/TaiChiT-t-T2011.pdf>

WHAT: Arizona Geriatrics Society 4th Annual Spring Geriatric Mental Health & Aging Conference

WHEN: Friday, April 8, 2011; Crowne Plaza Phoenix, 2532 W. Peoria Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/AzGSSpringEmailBrochure2011.pdf>

WHAT: TIMEOUT Workshop; Hoarding: The Best Kept Secret

WHEN: Tuesday, May 17, 2011; Civic Center Library, 2829 N. Drinkwater Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

For registration and more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2011TimeOutFlyer.pdf>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov .

Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Note: Due to Council committee meetings and staffing needs, the next *Legislative Update* will be issued in approximately two weeks. Thank you for your understanding and have a good week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging